GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2486
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
CHILDREN IN TIHAR JAIL
C. SREENIVAASAN;DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding the number of children languishing in various jails in the Country, particularly in Tihar Jail, without having committed any crime or due to delay in disposal of their cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made with regard to their overall mental attitude for being in the company of criminals for years together;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (e): According to a study on `Children of Women Prisoners in Indian Jails` conducted by the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, Ministry of Home Affairs, during the period 1997-2000 there were 885 children living in different jails of the country with their prisoner mothers as on 30.6.1997. As on 14.3.2002, there were 62 children living in Tihar jail with their prisoner mothers who can keep their children upto the age of 6 years with them. The Jail Manuals provide for appropriate care regarding their health and education.

Juvenile/delinquent children above six years of age are not kept in jails. The attention of the State Governments/UT Administrations have been drawn to the recommendations of the study by the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science and they have been asked to consider their recommendations for implementation